

Waxman Act that has blocked price competition, and increase access to affordable life-saving medications. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that takes a fair market and cost-saving approach to improving our health care system.

HONORING COMMANDER ROBERT
"CLEM" CLEMENTS

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow Naval Officer, CDR Robert S. Clements. Tomorrow, after his 25-year tenure with the United States Navy, Commander Clements will commemorate his retirement with a ceremony aboard the Display Ship *Barry* in the Washington Navy Yard.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in May 1984 and graduated from Recruit Basic Training in October 1984. After receiving his commission in the Navy and graduating with a B.S. degree in Business Management in May 1988, Commander Clements subsequently graduated from Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA, in December 1988.

In January 1989, Commander Clements reported to USS *Savannah* (AOR-4) in Norfolk, VA, and served as the Disbursing Officer, Sales Officer, and Food Service Officer. In April 1992, he reported to Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, LA, where he served as Combined Bachelor Quarters Officer, and Aviation Support Division Officer. After receiving his M.S. degree in business management from Troy State University in August 1994, he served as Supply Officer in USS *Elliot* (DD-967) in San Diego, CA from 1995 to May 1997.

Commander Clements was selected to serve as the Officer in Charge, Chairman's Dining Room, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC, where he served on the Joint Staff from June 1997 to July 1999. A millennium graduate of the Marine Corps University, Command and Staff College, he completed the 10-month Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I curriculum and Military Operations other than War (MOOTW).

Commander Clements served as the Director of Operations, Fleet Hospital Support Office, Williamsburg, VA from August 2000 to September 2003 and as Deputy Director of Operations and Mobilization Officer, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF), Williamsburg, VA from October 2002 to July 2004 where he mobilized the initial NAVELSF capabilities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. He then served as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics/N4A, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, Manama, Bahrain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and additionally, he led the logistics crisis action planning in support of the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake relief effort.

From May 2006 to August 2007, Commander Clements served as the Director of Logistics, Reserve Component Command, Region Mid-Atlantic and was responsible for the integration of Navy Reserve Readiness Command Mid-Atlantic, Wash., D.C. and Navy Re-

serve Readiness Command, Northeast, Newport, RI. He also served as the Director of Logistics, Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C. from September 2007 to December 2007. Commander Clements is currently the Deputy Director of Training and Readiness (J-97), Joint Reserves Forces, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, VA, responsible for the training and readiness of over 750 military reservists assigned throughout the DLA organization supporting worldwide military operations.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Commendation medal (three awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards). Commander Clements was the recipient of the Naval Reserve Association's 1994 Junior Officer of the Year Award. He is a life member of the Naval Reserve Association, NRA, and also a member of the National Naval Officers Association. On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize Commander Clements and the essential contributions he has made to our great Nation.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Right now there are over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in this nation.

Jean Kling in Aiken, SC is one. Upon hearing of her diagnosis, Mrs. Kling tearfully and bravely smiled at her husband and three grown children. Nothing had prepared any of them for this news. But like every other challenge in her life, Mrs. Kling encouraged herself in her faith in Jesus Christ and began the process of getting well.

She underwent a mastectomy. Lost all her hair during six months of chemotherapy and saw signs of re-growth during six months of radiation. After all her treatments, doctors said she was cancer free and she remains that way 10 years later.

Mrs. Kling is one of many women who have survived the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. During October, we remember our loved ones who have lost their lives to this disease and we thank all those in the medical profession, researchers and the American Cancer Society for all they do to make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO CELIA TORRES
GARCIA MALDONADO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join in the commemorations of Hispanic Heritage Month and as it is known in my dis-

trict, as the Puerto Rico—Virgin Islands Friendship Celebration, to honor and commend a mover and shaker in my community, who has served our community, in particular its youth in an exceptional manner for many years. Celia Torres Garcia Maldonado, or Cielo, as she is affectionately known, has for the past thirty five years been the visionary behind an organization that has provided structure, creativity, and the opportunity to excel to young women and men on my home island, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 1974, when her young daughter expressed interest in becoming a majorette, Cielo, finding that there were not any viable groups for her to join on St. Croix, took it upon herself, with the help of like minded friends to found the St. Croix Majorettes, an organization which has stood the test of time in providing a positive outlet for St. Croix's youth to develop their performing talent.

As the story is told, with the purchase of a baton and the help of her sister Mirta L. Martnez, it all began. The St. Croix Majorettes was organized in May 1974 with Celia T. Maldonado as director, and Mirta L. Martinez and Maria Cotto as co-directors. These ladies were assisted by the late Miguel Duchesne.

The local majorettes started with twenty girls practicing at the Canegata Ball Park. Within two months, and with the help of the Doc James Radio Talk Show, parents were encouraged to register their children and this led to an increase of 150 active participants. In 1975, the St. Croix Majorettes and Marching Band were officially inducted into the Majorettes and Band Federation of Puerto Rico. The organization grew and eventually, Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes, was responsible for hosting the first Majorette festival on St. Croix. Seven groups came from Puerto Rico and one from St. Thomas to participate in the VIPR Friendship Day celebrations.

Under the leadership of Cielo, the St. Croix Majorettes have been invited and have participated in numerous festivities on the U.S. mainland and Caribbean islands representing St. Croix in a dignified and diligent manner.

After thirty three years, Celio T. Maldonado, director of the St. Croix Majorettes, has over 300 members who are still performing whenever they are called upon to do so. They continue to practice at their headquarters located in Est. Peter's Rest. All members and parents of the St. Croix Majorettes have become her most precious "extended family".

Her utmost satisfaction, pride and joy is when former members, who are now parents, bring their children to enroll. As she travels around and meets her "extended family", her proud remark is always, "This is, or was one of my majorettes."

Cielo's reach has been far and wide. For instance, one of my staffers, Attorney Angeline Muckle Jabbar, one of the original group of little girls who are now successful in their careers, was molded by Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask the Congress to join me in commending an outstanding Virgin Islander and American of Hispanic Heritage who continues to serve her community and its youth in an outstanding manner.